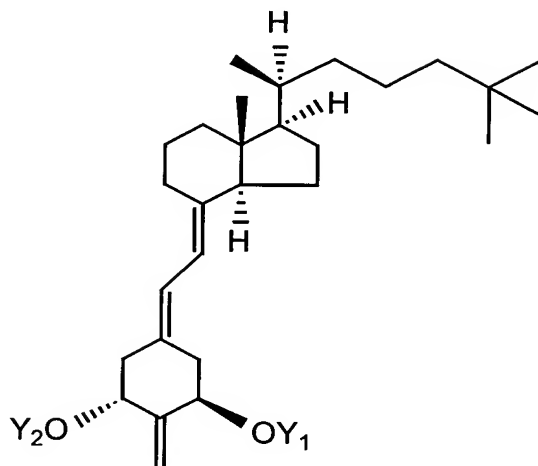


CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A compound having the formula:



where Y₁ and Y₂, which may be the same or different, are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxy-protecting group.

2. 2-methylene-19-nor-20(S)-25-methyl-1 α -hydroxycalciferol.
3. A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 containing 2-methylene-19-nor-20(S)-25-methyl-1 α -hydroxycalciferol in an amount from about 0.01 μ g to about 100 μ g.
5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 containing 2-methylene-19-nor-20(S)-25-methyl-1 α -hydroxycalciferol in an amount from about 0.1 μ g to about 50 μ g.
6. A method of treating metabolic bone disease where it is desired to maintain or increase bone mass comprising administering to a patient with said disease an effective amount of a compound having the formula:

25. The method of claim 21 where the disease is prostate cancer.
26. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is administered orally.
27. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is administered parenterally.
28. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is administered transdermally.
29. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is 2-methylene-19-nor-20(S)-25-methyl-1 α -hydroxycalciferol.
30. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is administered in a dosage of from 0.01 μ g to 100 μ g per day.
31. (20S)-de-A,B-25-methylcholestan-8-one having the formula:

